

**AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the abstract as indicated below:

A platform-independent execution environment for executing embedded instructions is disclosed provided. In one example, the instructions may be embedded in an active barcode format. In the example system, a barcode encoded with an instruction may be read. A machine executable instruction may be generated based on the read barcode using a virtual machine. The machine executable instruction may be executed using the virtual machine. The example system may be used to validate game tickets from a game of chance.